



CHICAGO GARDEN PLAN

School Year Calendar vs Chicago Growing Season

SCHOOL YEAR					SUMMER BREAK			SCHOOL YEAR			
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
					JUN			SEP		NOV	

SPRING SEASON CROPS APRIL 1 - MAY 30

Salad Garden: Lettuce, Radishes, Spinach, Peas (grown for Pea Shoots)

The spring growing season is short and sweet. We plant a Salad Garden in the spring once temperatures have warmed to allow for garden growth and harvest it before students get out of school for the summer.

SUMMER/FALL CROPS JUNE 1 - OCTOBER 15

Summer Themed Gardens: 3 Sisters Garden, Salsa Garden, Plant Parts Garden, Root Veggie Garden.

The summer growing season is the most diverse and charismatic garden. Because of the potentially large number of plants you may want to grow, and the great potential for teaching, we split the garden into different themes. Most Themed Gardens produce a harvest in the fall.

Summer Themed Garden Option #2: Summer Cover Crop

If your school does not have the capacity to maintain a summer garden, you can plant a cover crop of hardy edible flowers and soil building crops. This garden requires one month of care to become established before transitioning to minimal summer upkeep. The cover crop is followed by a Salad Garden in early September.

FALL SEASON CROPS SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 30

Salad Garden: Asian greens, beans, chard, cilantro, kale, pea shoots, radishes, spinach

The fall growing season is short and sweet. For schools who were unable to grow summer vegetables, we plant a Salad Garden as soon as students arrive back to school for the fall semester and harvest before winter.

OVERWINTERED CROPS NOVEMBER 1 - MARCH

Overwintered Crops: Spinach, Garlic, and winter cover crops (peas and winter wheat)

In addition to overwintering garlic and spinach, Learning Gardens will grow winter wheat and peas to help protect and nourish their soil through the harsh winter months. Attend the Fall Garden workshop to learn how to encourage earlier and larger spring harvests of cool weather crops.